

IEWS RELEA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CORPS OF ENGINEERS HOLDS SECOND PUBLIC SCOPING WORKSHOP ON CRITICAL COMPONENT OF **EVERGLADES RESTORATION**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Jacksonville District, together with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), will hold the second of two public workshops Thursday, August 23, 2007, 6:30 pm, on the development of the first Project Implementation Report (PIR) for the Water Conservation Area 3A (WCA-3) Decompartmentalization and Sheet Flow Enhancement Project. The meeting will be held at the Southwest Regional Library, 16835 Sheridan Street in Pembroke Pines. The first meeting was held Tuesday, August 21 in West Palm Beach.

The conceptual plan for this project, commonly referred to as "DECOMP," is to remove barriers to sheet flow that divided or "compartmentalized" the Everglades into separate water conservation areas under the Central and Southern Florida Project as a flood control measure. DECOMP is a critical component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). Restoring natural water flows will require removing or modifying levees, canals and other barriers to sheet flow. The DECOMP PIR 1 study area includes WCA-3 and extends as far north as the southern end of Lake Okeechobee and as far south as the Tamiami Trail within Broward and Miami-Dade counties.



"We strongly encourage the public to participate in the development of DECOMP PIR 1 and all subsequent studies," said Colonel Paul L. Grosskruger, commander of the Corps'

Jacksonville District. "The Corps and the SFWMD recognize that there are a range of issues and interests that may be affected by these projects. Scoping workshops are held so that we can identify early in the process, the potential issues, concerns and solutions."

Representatives from the Corps and the SFWMD will be on hand to present information and answer questions. An informal "meet and greet" will begin at 6 p.m. and the presentation will begin at 6:30, followed by public comments.

All interested individuals, groups and agencies are invited to comment. Written comments will be accepted until September 24, 2007, and should be submitted to:

Mr. Ernest Clarke
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
701 San Marco Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32207-8175
decompcomments@evergladesplan.org

For more information on the public scoping meeting, contact Sonya Goines, 904-607-1472.

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